

MYSTERIOUS WARNINGS OF COMING EVENTS THAT HAVE BEEN FULFILLED

Startling Instances of Inexplicable Premonitions That Have Either Foretold the Near Approach of Death or Saved the Recipients From Impending Disasters—All of Which Have Been Investigated and Verified by the Society of Psychological Research.

THESE are two great classes of individuals who are the arch enemies of scientific progress; the bigoted skeptics and the unreasoning credulous. Men and women who belong to the first class refuse to place any faith in phenomena which they have not personally seen or experienced, and who even go so far as to ridicule all those who have grounds for believing differently. The other class is composed of those who accept all statements as true without waiting to investigate or verify. They seize upon some irresponsible assertion and give wide circulation to it with the same alacrity as if it were a well authenticated proposition. In this way genuine research and reliable information are cheapened and put under the ban of suspicion, for the promulgation of fantastic ideas and chimerical schemes is certain to be confounded with sober facts and well established theories.

For the past four decades scientists have confined their energies and researches largely along the lines of progress in the material world. They have adduced sufficient technical information concerning such subjects as electricity, hydraulics, and dynamics to enable the utilitarians to adapt these forces to commercial uses. Having done this much the searchers for universal truths are now directing their energies largely to the comprehension of the mysteries which link the psychic world with the material; in other words the new school of scientists are endeavoring to find the relation of mind to matter, and the various laws which govern this relationship.

Foremost in the effort to unravel the mysteries of the mind is the English Society for Psychological Research and its auxiliary American branch.

Cannot Be Explained.

Prof. J. H. Hyslop, a vice president of the society, and formerly the professor of ethics and logic at Columbia University, has just published a volume of the "Enigmas of Psychological Research."

By courtesy of the publishers, Herbert B. Turner & Co., of Boston, the Sunday Times is enabled to select some of the most remarkable instances noted by the distinguished scientist.

In this work Prof. Hyslop narrates many marvelous instances where people have received warnings of coming events. These accounts are worthy of the most careful study for each case has been investigated and the statements made by various parties have in every instance been verified. A compendium of facts such as Prof. Hyslop furnishes in this book are sufficient to cause even the most skeptical to take some notice of the phenomena there set forth. No attempt is made as a general explanation for these mysteries. At the present time scientists and laymen alike admit that they are not solvable with the data now at hand. That the day will come when we shall see these mysteries face to face is the hope of all.

In the chapter on dreams Prof. Hyslop recounts the remarkable case of Mrs. Howleson. Her five-year-old daughter was on a visit to her grandmother. Mrs. Howleson had received letters only a day or two prior to the incident about to be narrated, in which it was stated that the child was quite well. One night the mother was awakened from a sound sleep by hearing her daughter crying in an agonized tone "Mamma, oh Mamma." Mrs. Howleson jumped up in bed and called to the nurse to go and see what Kathleen wished. The nurse responded that Mrs. Howleson had been dreaming, and reminded her that Kathleen was on a visit to her grandmother 200 miles away. Mrs. Howleson again lay down to sleep. In a few moments she was again sitting up in bed crying out to the nurse. She declared that she had distinctly heard Kathleen scream again, "Mamma, oh Mamma." Her husband and the nurse both tried to

soothe her, and after talking some time she was finally induced to try to sleep again. No sooner had she closed her eyes for the third time, however, than she heard that insistent wail again, this time in these words, "Mamma, oh Mamma, I have scarlet fever."

The next morning Mrs. Howleson insisted on telegraphing to her mother in Newport and she learned that on the evening before Kathleen had been complaining of feeling quite unwell. Later in the night she rapidly grew worse, and finally it was found necessary to call in a physician, who declared that the child had scarlet fever. This statement was overheard by the little patient, and immediately she cried out in terror, "Mamma, oh Mamma, I have scarlet fever," just as her mother had heard in her dreams. This case is vouched for by Mr. Howleson, the nurse, the child's physician, and the grandmother.

Obedient Mysterious Voice.

In the chapter on premonitions Dr. Hyslop has collected some most interesting and perplexing data. The following is one of the best authenticated incidents. A dentist in Boston was busily engaged at a small work bench where he was vulcanizing some rubber for the setting of false teeth. He was using a small copper vessel in his work. He was bending over the teeth with the copper at his side when he suddenly heard a voice calling in a quick, imperative manner these words: "Run to the window, quick! Run to the window, quick!" twice repeated. Without thinking from whom the voice could have come, he at once ran to the window, and looked out to the street below, when suddenly he heard a tremendous report in his workshop, and looking round he saw that the copper vessel had exploded, and had been blown up through the plastering of the ceiling.

Another case of premonition was that of an aged lady who heard a voice say in a loud voice: "Today, at 6 o'clock, you will die." She resolved not to brood over it, but went to see a sister that afternoon. She remained until 6 o'clock, and as the clock began to strike, she said: "There, now, it is 6 o'clock, and nothing has happened." But before the chime ceased blood was gushing out of both nostrils in a copious stream. The woman did not die, however, but recovered, having barely escaped death, according to the testimony of the physician.

A remarkable case occurred in 1883. A lady wrote to Dr. Hodgson, the secretary of the American branch of the Society for Psychological Research, inclosing a letter from her mother, who had died a few days before. The message from the dead woman had been written five years prior to the date of its receipt by Dr. Hodgson, and it stated that the writer had had a premonition that she would die five years after her husband, who had died in 1888. She stated that she was never disturbed by the thought but that the feeling always came quietly and naturally, and that whenever she began to make plans far ahead this reminder would come that she "would not be here six years from 1888." In the letter the woman stated that if she did live more than five years, she would destroy the note, but if she died during the fifth year, instructions were left to forward the letter to Dr. Hodgson. The story is well verified.

Foretold His Death.

Many Washington people will perhaps remember the case of Prof. Brooks' son in Baltimore which Dr. Hyslop tells. Young Brooks had been ill, but was on the road to recovery, the physicians having declared that he was entirely out of danger. The boy declared, however, that during his illness there had come to him in a vision a former teacher and friend, who had died five months previously. This friend told him that he would die of heart failure on December 5 at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. This prediction came in April. His physician, Dr. Mann, scouted the idea and de-

clared that the boy would certainly recover and that there were no symptoms of heart trouble. On December 4 young Brooks spent the evening in company with a young lady friend and he requested that she should come to him the next afternoon if he sent for her.

In order to divert his mind from the premonition by physical means the physician that night put a fly blister on his neck. On the morning of the 5th the boy arose feeling quite well. He ate an unusually hearty breakfast and to all appearances was quite strong and well. The young man insisted that his mother should not stay with him, saying, "It would kill you to see me die." He was humored in this.

While taking lunch with the family as usual at 2 o'clock, he complained of feeling faint. After resting in bed a few moments he wrote for the young lady to come to him. At 3:10 he died in the presence of the family. He was a young man of strong character, exceptionally good mind and splendid physique.

While this incident has the drawback of suggestion having its influence over the physical man, there is another well authenticated story that has no such flaw. It is vouched for by the celebrated French physician, Dr. Liebeault, who recounted the incidents to Dr. Hyslop.

Prophecies Came True.

On December 26, 1879, a man was walking down a boulevard in Paris when his attention was attracted by a card, "Mme. Lenormand, necromancer." Out of curiosity he stepped in and was ushered into a dark room. Mme. Lenormand came in and looked at the palm of his hand, and said: "You will lose your father in a year

from this day. You will soon be a soldier, but not for long. You will marry young, have two children and die at twenty-six!" The man was at this time only nineteen. He confided this prophecy to some friends, but did not think seriously of it. However, his father died on December 27, 1880, exactly a year from the interview. Shortly after this he became a soldier and served for seven months. Then he married, and two children were born to the couple. Thinking over all these matters, when his twenty-sixth birthday approached he became terror-stricken. In this state of mind he came to Dr. Liebeault for consultation. The physician who has been quite successful in hypnotic work, endeavored to put the man to sleep in order to dissipate the impression of his approaching death. Mme. Lenormand had not named his birthday as the date of his death but he had become firmly convinced that February 4 would be his last on earth. All efforts to put the man in a hypnotic sleep failed however, as he was too much agitated to yield to the influence of the physician.

Realizing that it was absolutely necessary to get rid of this conviction, if he would save his patient, Dr. Liebeault changed his tactics and suggested that he consult a somnambulist in the neighborhood, who had quite a wide reputation as a soothsayer. The young man accepted the suggestion, and the first question he asked the somnambulist, when put en rapport, was, "When shall I die?" The sleeper, suspecting the state of the case, replied, after a pause, "You will die . . . you will die in forty-one years." The effect of this prophecy was truly marvelous. The young man recovered his spirits, and when the

4th of February passed he thought himself entirely safe. In September of that year the man died of peritonitis. While any one of the events in the life of this Frenchman might come under the head of "coincidence," it is hardly probable that anyone would attempt to explain all five upon such a hypothesis.

"Watch the Box!"

Magazine readers will probably recall a story published several years ago as fiction, but which was in reality an actual occurrence, vouched for by reliable parties. A young express agent and telegraph operator at a small railway station was left in charge of a large sum of money, which was to be delivered to the messenger on a midnight train. It was about 8 o'clock when the money was brought to him, and he gave a receipt for it. At about 10 o'clock the same night four men left a coffin in the station. This was placed in the same room with the operator, and was to be put on board the midnight train also. When the operator had been left alone again, he suddenly heard his station-call on the telegraph instrument. He answered it, and immediately the following message was flashed over the wires:

"Watch the box; watch the box; watch the box." Nothing else was said, but this one message was repeated again and again. Every time the operator attempted to ask for more information the instrument would cease for a moment, and then the same message would be repeated again and again.

He concluded that the message must be an attempt at a practical joke on the part of some of his fellow-employees along the line, but he could not resist the temptation to take an occasional surreptitious glance at a small mirror above his desk which commanded the corner of the room in which the coffin had been placed.

Presently to his horror he saw the lid begin to slowly rise. At first he thought the mysterious message had affected his nerves and was causing his eyes to deceive him, but a long, careful glance at the reflection in the glass convinced him that the lid was really rising. At the same moment he recalled the money in his safe and suspected a plan to rob the express company.

With a demeanor of studied carelessness he opened the drawer of his desk and quietly slipped a revolver into his coat pocket. Then quite casually and never for a moment glancing in the direction of the coffin he opened the door and walked out of the room. There was a large freight room adjoining which he entered and, after turning out all the lights, he calculated the location of the coffin in the telegraph office and fired twice through the thin wood wall.

Immediately a loud crash sounded in the room he had deserted—a door slammed, and in a few moments he heard the sound of a wagon being driven away from the station at full

speed. When the midnight train pulled in an investigation was made which resulted in the discovery that the coffin had been carefully fitted out and furnished with breathing holes so that a man could lie in it quietly and slowly and noiselessly unscrew the top and lift it high enough to rise on one elbow and fire a revolver without making the slightest noise that would warn his intended victim.

The remarkable part of the case, however, was the mysterious message which came over the wires, as a premonition or warning. The matter was investigated along the entire line, and all the operators made affidavits that they had not only not sent the message, but that they had furthermore never heard such a message going over the wires, and yet they had been on duty at the time that the message came to the operator in question.

There are countless stories being circulated in regard to mysterious warnings and premonitions which have been fulfilled. The vast majority of these are no doubt the fruit of a heated imagination or of overcredulous individuals who are prone to see in every odd circumstance the interposition of some occult power. At the same time it must be admitted that there are many instances familiar to Times' readers which are as well authenticated as those mentioned in this article. The latter at least are authoritative, for they were verified and reverified many times before they were set forth in Dr. Hyslop's scientific work.

Scientists, as well as the world at large, are as yet almost wholly in the dark as to a satisfactory explanation for these psychological enigmas. Now we only know in part, but the day may not be far distant when we shall reveal in a complete understanding of these mysterious.

Today the scientist in replying to the inquiries of the great, curious world, may well adopt the words of Hamlet: "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."